

selves with such materials as they think necessary for their nests, they spare no pains to find out something that will answer the same ends. A lady, who kept a great number of birds in her own house, in what is called an aviary, that is, a little room on purpose to keep birds in, having provided her little guests with nothing more than hay for making their nests, was very agreeably surprised at the expedient the female had recourse to, in order to supply the want of wool or cotton. The little animal set herself to work, and picked feather after feather from the breast of the male, without the least opposition on his side; and with the down she had thus robbed him of, hung her whole apartment in a very elegant and artful manner.

May we not here ask, who informed the female, that she should deposit her eggs there, and that those eggs would be lost without a proper degree of heat? Who acquainted her, that a nest was abso-

absolutely necessary to preserve them from falling, and to bring them to perfection by a gradual heat? Certainly, that great and good God, who sees every action of our lives, and who teaches even birds in what manner to preserve themselves. As you grow up, my dear children, accustom yourselves thus to reason upon things, and the more you look into the wonders of the creation, the more you will reverence and adore the great author of them all.

I see you so attentive, my dears, that I shall proceed. Though the bird has no other implements to work with than her bill and claws, yet there are such marks of art and contrivance in her work, as discover all the regularity of the basket-maker, and the industry and application of the mason; for, in the structure of some of these nests, we see the down, the hairs, and the reeds are most beautifully interwoven.

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